

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A catheter comprising:
 - a sheath main body portion to be inserted into an organism;
 - a first lumen, which is a passage provided in said sheath main body portion, which has a first axis, and through which a guide wire for guiding said sheath main body portion in said organism can be passed, said first lumen comprising a first distal end opening portion, which is provided on the distal end side in the direction of insertion into said organism and through which said guide wire can be passed, and a first proximal end opening portion, which is provided on the proximal end side and through which said guide wire can be passed;
 - a sheath distal end portion provided at a distal end portion of said sheath main body portion; and
 - a second lumen being a passage different from said first lumen, said second lumen being provided in said sheath distal end portion, said second lumen comprising a second distal end opening portion and a second proximal end opening portion through which a guide wire can be passed, and said second lumen having a second axis different from said first axis;
- said sheath main body portion comprising a reinforcing part at a joint portion between said sheath main body portion and said sheath distal end portion, a portion of said first lumen extending through said reinforcing part; wherein

said second proximal end opening portion of said second lumen is provided on the distal end side ~~in relation to~~ of a position at a distance of 60 mm from said first distal end opening portion of said first lumen ~~to~~ toward the proximal end side ~~in~~ along said insertion direction;

2. (Currently Amended) The catheter as set forth in claim 1, wherein said second proximal end opening portion of said second lumen is provided on the distal end side ~~in relation to~~ of a position at a distance of 5 mm from said first distal end opening portion of said first lumen ~~to~~ toward the proximal end side ~~in~~ along said insertion direction.

3. (Original) The catheter as set forth in claim 1, wherein the spacing between said second proximal end opening portion of said second lumen and said first distal end opening portion of said first lumen is in the range of 2.5 to 10 mm.

4. (Original) The catheter as set forth in claim 1, wherein said first distal end opening portion of said first lumen is opened into the passage of said second lumen.

5. (Original) The catheter as set forth in claim 1, wherein said first distal end opening portion of said first lumen is opened to the exterior of the passage of said second lumen.

6. (Original) The catheter as set forth in claim 1, wherein an imaging core provided with an ultrasonic transducer at the distal end of said imaging core and enabling observation of the inside of said organism can be passed through said first lumen, in place of said guide wire.

7. (Original) The catheter as set forth in claim 6, wherein said imaging core is covered with a protective tube.

8. (New) The catheter as set forth in claim 1, wherein said sheath distal end portion has a distal end which extends distally beyond a distal end of said sheath main body portion.

9. (New) The catheter as set forth in claim 8, wherein an axial length of said sheath distal end portion is less than an axial length of said sheath main body portion.

10. (New) The catheter as set forth in claim 1, wherein said second distal end opening portion is positioned distally of said first distal end opening portion.

11. (New) The catheter as set forth in claim 10, wherein an axial length of said sheath distal end portion is less than an axial length of said sheath main body portion.

12. (New) The catheter as set forth in claim 1, wherein said sheath main body portion comprises a catheter tube, and said reinforcing part is located in said catheter tube.

13. (New) The catheter as set forth in claim 12, wherein said reinforcing part is located only at the joint portion between said sheath main body portion and said sheath distal end portion.

14. (New) The catheter as set forth in claim 12 further comprising a coil located proximally of the reinforcing part.

15. (New) The catheter as set forth in claim 1, wherein said reinforcing part is located only at the joint portion between said sheath main body portion and said sheath distal end portion.

16. (New) The catheter as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a coil located proximally of the reinforcing part.